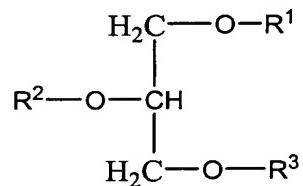


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method of preventing or treating skin damage, comprising orally administering a composition containing comprising diacylglycerol ether represented by the formula (I):



wherein R¹ denotes C₁₂₋₂₄ aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a degree of unsaturation of between 0 and 2; R² denotes C₁₂₋₂₄ acyl group having a degree of unsaturation of between 0 and 6; and R³ denotes C₁₂₋₂₄ acyl group having a degree of unsaturation of between 0 and 6.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 5, wherein the skin damage is wrinkle formation and/or sagging formation, the formation of skin cancer, or the formation of pigmented spots and/or freckles.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 5, wherein the diacylglycerol ether is orally administered at a dosage of between 10 mg and 5000 mg per day.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 5, wherein the composition is provided as processed food.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 5, wherein the composition is a diacylglyceryl ether-containing composition derived from shark liver oil.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 5 wherein R¹ denotes C₁₈ aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a degree of unsaturation of 1, R² denotes C₁₈ acyl group having a degree of unsaturation of 1, and R³ denotes C₁₈ acyl group having a degree of unsaturation of 1.

Claim 11 (New): The method of preventing skin damage of claim 5, wherein the diacylglyceryl ether is orally administered at a dosage of between 100 mg and 2000 mg per day.

Claim 12 (New): The method of preventing skin damage of claim 5, wherein the diacylglyceryl ether is orally administered at a dosage of between 500 mg and 2000 mg per day.

Claim 13 (New): The method of preventing skin damage of claim 5, wherein the composition is provided in liquid form.

Claim 14 (New): The method of preventing skin damage of claim 13, wherein the liquid form is a suspension, emulsion, syrup, or elixir.

Claim 15 (New): The method of preventing skin damage of claim 5, wherein the composition is provided in the form of a tablet, sustained-release tablet, granule, fine-grained agent, chewable tablet, sublingual tablet, or gum.

Claim 16 (New): The method of preventing skin damage of claim 5, wherein the oral administering is carried out once a day or at several separate instances a day.

Claim 17 (New): The method of preventing skin damage of claim 5, wherein the composition further comprises an excipient, binders, disintegrating agents, surfactants, lubricants, agents for promoting flowability, pH regulators, absorption retarders, antioxidants, antiseptics, corrigents, colorants, odorants, or mixtures thereof.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 5-10 are currently amended.

Claims 11-17 are added.

The amendments to claims 5-10 are supported by the claims and throughout the present specification, e.g., at page 2, lines 21-25, as originally filed.

Claims 11-17 are supported by the specification at page 5, lines 16-26, page 7, lines 9-11 and 24-28, as originally filed.

No new matter is believed to be added by the amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, claims 5-17 will be pending in this application.